

The Florida Senate
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: Education Pre-K - 12 Committee

BILL: CS/SB 2458

INTRODUCER: Committee on Pre-K-12 Education and Senator Crist

SUBJECT: High School to Business Career Enhancement Act

DATE: April 11, 2007 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Carrouth</u>	<u>Matthews</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>FT</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	<u>EA</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill creates the High School to Business Career Enhancement Act and authorizes district school boards to adopt policies to provide for up to 100 high school internships annually through employers that partner with the school district.

Internships under the bill must be consistent with the career goals of the student. Students must have a minimum weighted grade point average of 2.0 to participate in the internship. The internships must last at least 8 weeks, but no more than 20 weeks, and would allow for students to work up to 20 hours per week. The bill caps the number of internships per employer based on its number of employees.

Any employees or contracted personnel of an employer who have direct contact with students must be screened under level 2 background standards. Finally, employment of an intern under the bill would not be considered employment for purposes of unemployment compensation.

This bill creates section 1003.496 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The Florida Secondary Schools Redesign Act¹ was enacted by the 2006 Legislature to require that every middle school student complete a full course in career and educational planning prior to high school enrollment. The act requires middle schools to use Florida CHOICES or an

¹ s. 19, ch. 2006-74, L.O.F., as codified in s. 1003.4156(1)(a), F.S.

equally cost effective program² Florida CHOICES is a comprehensive electronic portfolio-based program that includes assessments for interests, skills, and values, and provides a database with information on careers, public and private postsecondary institutions, career options and workforce trends, and financial aid. It also allows users to develop career plans and resumes and to complete job search activities. The act also provides for high school students to select a major area of interest and to choose courses compatible to those interests in order to engage students more effectively and to highlight the relevance of high school academics.

Currently, school districts offer various internships, on-the-job-training and cooperative education opportunities to students, mainly through the Workforce Education programs.³

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill would create the High School to Business Career Enhancement Act and encourage district school boards to adopt policies to allow internships for high school students through employers that partner with the school district. High school internships must be consistent with the career goals of each student participant. At the conclusion of the internship, a student evaluation would be conducted to monitor the academic value of the internship.

Qualified internships must last a minimum of 8 weeks but no more than 20 consecutive weeks, and would allow students to work up to 20 hours per week. A student may only participate in one internship per year.

School districts may not authorize more than 100 internships each school year. This may disproportionately affect school districts with a larger student population base. The number of internships that an employer may offer would be based on a sliding scale, contingent upon the number of employees a business retains within the school district.

Employees or contracted personnel of the employer, who have direct contact with student interns, must be screened under level 2 background requirements. The employer must pay for the background checks. It is not apparent whether the background checks must be conducted through the district school board for submission to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement or through the employer at any location authorized to take fingerprints such as a sheriff's office.

Finally, the bill exempts the employment of student interns from the definition of employment for the purposes of unemployment compensation under chapter 443, F.S.

The State Board of Education may adopt rules to implement the bill.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

² <https://access.bridges.com/auth/login.do?sponsor=7>

³ http://www.firn.edu/doe/workforce/ca_resources.htm

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Businesses that partner with a school district to provide paid internships would bear the costs of background screening for employees who have direct contact with student interns. The cost of the federal and state background check is approximately \$47 per person; however, there may be additional fees for using certain background screening providers.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

This Senate Professional Staff Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
